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THE IMPORTANCE OF THE Iſland of MINORCA AND Harbour of PORT-MAHON,

Fully and impartially conſidered.

WITH A

HISTORY and DESCRIPTION of both,

IN A

LETTER from a MERCHANT to a Noble LORD.

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BRITISH MUSEUM

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE Iſland of MINORCA AND Harbour of *Port-Mahon*, &c.

MY LORD,

AS your Lordſhip, I know, has a due Regard for the Glory, the Trade, and the Navigation of your Country, and can attend impartially to what is ſaid againſt the Conduct even of thoſe who by vulgar Minds are called their Friends, or their Party; and as by our preſent Conduct, eſpecially with regard to our Poſſeſſions in the *Mediterranean*, our Glory, our Trade, and our Navigation, ſeem all to be *in ſome Danger*, permit me to lay before you, the Importance of thoſe Poſſeſſions, which is not perhaps ſo well underſtood by our *Peers* or our *Admirals*, as it is by the *Merchants*, who

are daily trading to that Part of the World. The Iſland of *Minorca*, and Harbour of *Port-Mahon*, ſeem now to be in the *moſt imminent Danger*, therefore, I ſhall begin with that valuable Poſſeſſion, and that your Lordſhip may not be obliged to have Recourſe to any other, I ſhall premiſe a ſhort Hiſtory and Deſcription of that Iſland and Harbour.

The Iſland of *Minorca*, is the leaſt of the two Iſlands, called *Baleares* by the Antients, which Name was firſt given to them by the *Grecians*, as ſome ſay from *Baleus*, one of *Hercules*'s Companions, who was left there; or as others, with better reaſon, ſay, from the *Greek* Word ΒΑΛΛΩ, I throw, becauſe the Inhabitants made great uſe of the Sling, and were very dextrous at hitting a Mark with it at a great Diſtance, it being a Cuſtom among them, to place their Children's Breakfaſt upon a Tree, or ſome Eminence, every Morning, and not to allow them to touch it, 'till after they had knocked it down with their Sling. They were likewiſe called *Gymneſiæ* by the *Grecians*, from the *Greek* Word ΓΥΜΝΟΣ, naked, becauſe in the Summer-Time they always went naked*. But none

* See *Tit. Liv.* Hiſtory, Epitome of Book lx. and *Florus*'s Hiſtory, Book iii. Chap. 8.

of

of the *Grecian* States ever thought it worth their while to ſubdue, or to eſtabliſh a Colony in either of theſe Iſlands, nor is it probable, indeed, that they were ever ſubdued until after the *Carthaginians* had conquered ſome Part of *Spain*; and even then it is probable, that the *Carthaginians* were at the Pains to ſubdue them, rather on Account of the Uſe they could make of their Men in their Armies, than for any Thing they could get in their Iſlands; for it appears, that *Hannibal* had a Body of them in his Army *, and that the *Carthaginian* General and Admiral, *Mago*, after being repulſed from *Majorca*, the largeſt *Balearic* Iſland, was received without Oppoſition into *Minorca*, where he raiſed 2000 Men, whom he ſent to *Carthage* †, and who were probably preſent in thoſe *Carthaginian* Armies overcome by *P. Cornelius Scipio*, before he put an End to the ſecond *Punick* War.

The Reaſons why the *Majorcans* refuſed Entrance into their Iſland to the *Carthaginians*, was becauſe they and their Brethren of *Minorca*, had before ſubmitted to the *Romans*, they having been among the firſt

* *Tit. Liv.* Book xxii. Chap. 4, 48. Book xxvii. Chap. 2. Book xxx. Chap. 33. † Ditto Book xxviii. Chap. 37.

of

of the *Spaniſh* Nations who had ſent Ambaſſadors to *Cn. Scipio*, after the naval Victory he obtained over the *Carthaginian* Fleet under *Aſdrubal*, at the Mouth of the *Ebro**; and the *Minorcans* would probably have likewiſe oppoſed the landing of the *Carthaginians* in their Iſland, if they had thought themſelves able to reſiſt; but they had not, it ſeems, Men enough at home, to make a Reſiſtance, as their Iſland was much ſmaller, and as the *Carthaginians* always drew Numbers of Men from both, to ſerve in their Armies both in *Italy* and *Spain* †.

After the End of the ſecond *Punick* War, the *Balearick* Iſlands continued ſubject to the *Romans*, though not without ſome ſhort Intervals of Rebellion, until the Weſtern Empire was over-run by the *Goths* and *Vandals*, to the latter of whom the *Baleares* became ſubject about the Year 421, and continued in their Poſſeſſion until near the End of the 8th Century, when they were made an abſolute Conqueſt of by the *Saracens*, who had for many Years before been making continual Inroads upon them. Under their Dominion theſe Iſlands continued, except for a few

* *Tit. Liv.* Book xxii. Chap. 20. † Ditto Book xxviii. Chap. 15.

Years that they were under the Power of *Charles the Great*, until after the *Saracens*, now called the *Maurs*, had their Power in *Spain* very much curtailed by their Loſs at the Battle of *Loſa*, in 1210, where 200,000 of them were killed; for as they were not, after that Defeat, able to aſſiſt their Countrymen in the *Balearick* Iſlands, *James* King of *Arragon* invaded *Majorca*, with a powerful Army, in 1229, and after defeating the *Maurs* of that Iſland in ſeveral Skirmiſhes, and taking their chief Town *Palma*, he reduced the Iſland to his Obedience, which ſo frightened thoſe of *Minorca*, that in 1232, they ſubmitted to hold the Iſland of him, and to pay him an annual Tribute; ſo that they continued to have a Sort of Juriſdiction in the Iſland; but being encouraged by their Countrymen in *Africa*, they neglected paying their Tribute, and began again their uſual Pyracies, therefore in 1286, *Alphonſo* King of *Arragon* invaded *Minorca* with a numerous Army, and after giving the *Maurs* two notable Defeats, though they had been re-inforced by great Numbers of their Countrymen from *Africa*, he obliged them to ſhut themſelves up in their ſtrong Fortreſs of *Mount Agatha*, which being

pre-

preſently inveſted by the Conqueror, was at laſt, on the 17th of *January*, 1287, through Famine, forced to ſurrender, on the lamentable Conditions, that ſuch of them as could pay a certain Sum, by Way of Ranſom, ſhould be tranſported to *Africa*, but that all the reſt of the *Maurs*, either there or in the Iſland, ſhould be made Slaves. Accordingly about 100 of them were ſhipt on board for *Africa*, but either periſhed by a Tempeſt, or were thrown overboard by the Seamen, in their Paſſage; and the remaining more unfortunate Multitude, to the Number of 20,000, were reduced into a Slavery of the moſt wretched Sort, as we muſt ſuppoſe, when we conſider, that they were enthuſiaſtick *Mahometans*, and their Maſters bigotted Papiſts.

As the *Maurs* had thus been in full Poſſeſſion of *Minorca* near 500 Years, we may ſuppoſe, that none of the original Natives were now remaining in the Iſland, or, if any of them did, that they were become *Mahometans*, and could not be diſtinguiſhed from the *Maurs*, and conſequently, that the Iſland was by this Conqueſt quite diſpeopled; therefore *Alphonſo* divided, and granted, the Iſland to ſuch of the Officers and Soldiers of his Army

Army as were willing to ſtay there, and of theſe Grantees the preſent Natives are deſcended, who, tho' they have laid aſide the Uſe of the Sling, and the old Cuſtom of training their Children up to it from their Infancy, are ſtill reputed very good Markſmen with the Muſket, or Firelock.

From this Time the *Baleares* remained ſubject to the Kings of *Arragon*, and ſo became annexed to the Crown of *Spain*, to which Crown they both continued annexed until the Year 1708, when Major General, afterwards the Earl of *Stanhope*, was ſent with a Squadron and ſome Tranſports, having about 2000 Land-Forces and Marines on board, to reduce *Minorca*, as being the moſt convenient and ſafe Station for our Navy in the *Mediterranean*. He landed in the Iſland *September* 14, N. S. and upon his Landing all the *French* and *Spaniſh* Troops that were in the Iſland, retired into Fort *St. Philips* at *Port-Mahon*, amounting in the Whole to about 1000 Men, beſides one Company of 50 Men who kept Garriſon in the Fort at Port *Fornelles*, and two Companies of 50 Men each who kept Garriſon at *Ciudadella*.

As ſoon as the Troops were landed, two of our men of War were ſent to reduce the

Fort *Fornelles*, which they did in a very few Days, having obliged the Garriſon to ſurrender themſelves Priſoners of War; but as it was found very difficult to land our Artillery, which conſiſted of 42 Guns and 15 Mortars, and ſtill more difficult to convey it in ſo rocky a Country, without a ſufficient Number of Cattle of any Kind, to the Attack of *Fort St. Philips*, it was the 28th before a Battery of nine Guns only could be got to play upon the Outline of the Fort, in which however a Breach was made before Night, and an Aſſault reſolved on for the next Day; but that very Night ſome of the Grenadiers of two Battalions under Brigadier, afterwards Marſhal General *Wade*, finding an Opportunity, entered the Line without Orders, and they being immediately ſupported, firſt by the Brigadier at the Head of theſe two Battalions, and then by the whole Army, the Beſieged all retired precipitately into the Fort itſelf, which furniſhed the Beſiegers with an Opportunity to lodge themſelves, and to begin before Morning to trace out a Battery, on the Glacis of the Fort. This being perceived by the Beſieged as ſoon as it was Day-light, they began to conſider, that as they could expect no Relief, a very few

few Days would put it out of their Power to obtain any honourable Terms, therefore they beat a Parley that Morning, capitulated in the Afternoon, to be ſent Part to *France*, and the reſt to *Spain*, and General *Stanhope* took Poſſeſſion of the Place on the 30th; preſently after which a Detachment was ſent to *Ciudadella*, which being no way fortified, the Garriſon, upon the firſt Summons, ſurrendered themſelves Priſoners of War; and thus in three Weeks after our Landing we made ourſelves Maſters of this whole Iſland.

As it was reduced chiefly by the *Britiſh* Arms, by the Conſent of all our Allies, it continued in our ſole Poſſeſſion during the War; and the Advantages of it became by Experience ſo conſpicuous, that, at the Treaty of *Utrecht*, an abſolute Surrender of the Iſland to this Nation was peremptorily inſiſted on by our *Tory* Miniſters: I ſay, our *Tory* Miniſters; becauſe no ſuch Article was ſo much as mentioned by our *Whig* Miniſters in the Preliminaries propoſed by them at the Treaty of *Guertruydenburg*. And tho' the Death of the Emperor *Joſeph*, and the Election of his Brother *Charles*, then called King of *Spain*, had ſoon after rendered the

Purſuit of the Grand Confederacy impracticable, yet theſe our *Tory* Miniſters obtained the following Article, inſerted in our Treaty of Peace with *Spain*, concluded at *Utrecht*, *July* the 2d—13th, 1713, *viz.*

" Moreover, the Catholick King doth in " like Manner *, for himſelf, his Heirs and " Succeſſors, yield to the Crown of *Great-* " *Britain* the whole Iſland of *Minorca*, and " doth transfer thereunto for ever all Right, " and the moſt abſolute Dominion over the " ſaid Iſland, and in particular over the " Town, Caſtle, Harbour, and Fortifica- " tions of the Bay of *Minorca*, commonly " called *Port-Mahon*, together with the other " Ports, Places, and Towns, ſituated in the " aforeſaid Iſland. But it is provided, as in " the above-written Article, that no Refuge " or Shelter ſhall be open to any Ships of " War of the *Maurs* in *Port-Mahon*, or in " any other Port of the ſaid Iſland of *Minor-* " *ca*, whereby the *Spaniſh* Coaſts may be in- " feſted by their Excurſions: And the *Maurs* " and their Ships ſhall only be allowed to " enter the Iſland aforeſaid on Account of " Traffick, according to the Agreement of

* The preceding Article contains a like Ceſſion of *Gibraltar*.

" Treaties,

" Treaties. The Queen of *Great-Britain*
" promiſes alſo on her Part, that if at any
" Time it ſhall happen, that the Iſland of
" *Minorca*, and the Ports, Towns, and
" Places therein ſituated, be by any Means
" hereafter alienated from the Crown of her
" Kingdoms, the Preference ſhall be given
" to the Crown of *Spain* before any other
" Nation whatever, of redeeming the Poſ-
" ſeſſion and Propriety of the aforeſaid Iſland.
" Her Royal Majeſty of *Great-Britain* more-
" over engages, that ſhe will take Care, that
" all the Inhabitants of the ſaid Iſland, both
" Eccleſiaſtical and Secular, ſhall ſafely and
" peaceably enjoy all their Eſtates and Ho-
" nours, and the free Uſe of the *Roman Ca-*
" *tholick* Religion ſhall be permitted: And
" Meaſures ſhall be taken for preſerving the
" aforeſaid Religion in that Iſland, provided
" the ſame be conſiſtent with the Civil Go-
" vernment and Laws of *Great-Britain*. Thoſe
" likewiſe who are now in the Service of his
" Catholick Majeſty ſhall enjoy their Ho-
" nours and Eſtates, tho' they continue in the
" ſaid Service; and it ſhall be lawful for any
" Perſon who is deſirous to leave the ſaid
" Iſland, to ſell his Eſtate, and paſs freely
" with the Value thereof into *Spain*."

Thus

Thus, my Lord, the Iſland of *Minorca* has now been very near 48 Years in our Poſſeſſion, either as a Depoſite, or as our abſolute Property; and our publick Accounts will ſhew, what infinite Sums it has coſt us, both for maintaining a Garriſon there, and for improving the Fortifications. This Expence, indeed, we ought not to grudge, had it been properly and frugally laid out, even tho' it had been double what it is, becauſe of the great Advantage it has been, and always muſt be of, to our Trade and Navigation in the *Mediterranean*. But, before I have done, I ſhall ſhew, that if we had taken proper Meaſures, as ſoon as the Iſland was yielded to us, the publick Revenue ariſing from it, might long ſince have been ſufficient for defraying the whole Charge of fortifying and keeping it; and my Reaſon for attempting this is, becauſe ſuch Meaſures may ſtill be taken, as ſoon as it is reſolved, that our Foreign Poſſeſſions ſhall not be made *Miniſterial Jobs*, for enriching ſome Favourite ſent out by them as Governor, or quartered upon the Governor they appoint. And, in order to do this, it will be neceſſary to give a ſhort Deſcription of the Iſland, and the Fortifications

tions belonging to it, which I ſhall now beg Leave to lay before your Lordſhip.

As to the Situation of the Iſland, it deſerves a particular Deſcription, becauſe from thence flows a great deal of its Importance. I muſt therefore obſerve, that it lies in the *Mediterranean* Sea, and exactly under the 40th northern Parallel, which paſſes through the Middle of it; and it is of an oval Form, lying South Eaſt and North Weſt, it being upwards of 33 Miles long, and from 10 to 13 Miles in Breadth; but its Coaſt, eſpecially on the North and North Eaſt Side, is very much indented with long Bays and Promontories, occaſioned, as is ſuppoſed, by the Winds called *Levanters*, which blow from the North or North Eaſt, and are often ſo furious, as to be dangerous to Navigation, but in the Summer Time ſerve to cool and refreſh the Iſland, which, at that Time of the Year, would otherwiſe be rather too warm for a *Britiſh* Conſtitution. As it lies 200 Miles directly South from *Montpelier*, on the Southern Coaſt of *France*, about 170 Miles directly Eaſt from *Villa-real*, on the Eaſtern Coaſt of *Spain*, about 200 Miles directly North from *Algiers*, on the Northern Coaſt of *Africa*, and about the ſame Diſtance from the Weſtern Coaſt of

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Sardinia, it is excellently ſituated either for protecting or incommoding the Trade of all Nations in the *Mediterranean*, and for ſaving thoſe Ships that happen to be unluckily caught in a tempeſtuous *Levanter*; and as *Port-Mahon* lies at the Eaſt End of the Iſland, there is not a ſafe Harbour for Ships of War in the *Mediterranean*, ſo conveniently ſituated for bridling the Pirates of *Africa*.

The Iſland is reckoned to contain at leaſt 151,040 Acres; but as it is very mountainous, and the Sides of theſe Mountains conſiſting in many Places of nothing but Precipices and bare Rock, there are many of thoſe Acres quite barren; and in general the whole Iſland may be called a Rock covered with a thin Mould, except in ſome of the Vallies, and in thoſe Places they call their Baranco's, which ſeem to be Places gained from the Sea, at the Head of ſome Bay or Cove, by the Waſhing-down of the Earth from the adjacent Mountains; therefore there are no large Timber-Trees in the Iſland, for where there is Depth of Earth enough for their taking Root, they make a better Uſe of it, by turning it into arable Land, or Garden-Ground. But wherever there is any Earth, as it conſiſts of a rich Mould, tho' it be but thin, it is very fruitful, and might be made much

M E D I T E R R A N E A N

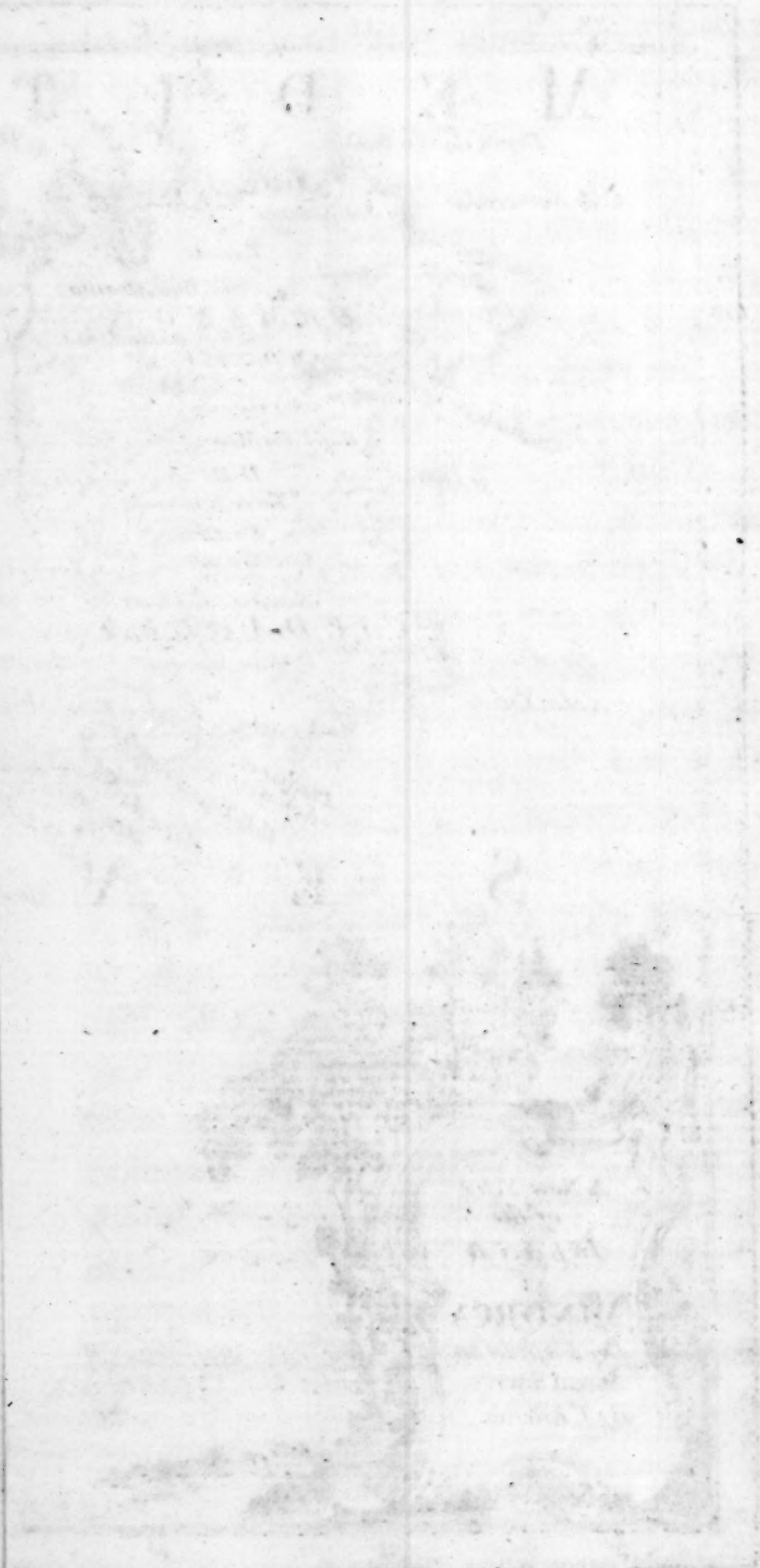
S E A

A New MAP of the ISLAND of MINORCA Drawn from an Actual Survey. By T. Kitchin.

British Statute Miles 69 to a Degree

4 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Printed for R. Baldwin in Pater Noster Row 1756.



much more ſo, if the Inhabitants had Wealth and Induſtry enough to make Reſervoirs in their Mountains for watering it as often as there was Occaſion ; and even their Rock in many Places might be turned to good Account, as it has been lately found to be Marble of a great Beauty and Variety; therefore I am ſurprized, that great Quantities of it have not been brought home for publick Uſe, in ſuch of our Men of War as were to return from that Iſland in Time of Peace, or in the Tranſports that brought our Troops from thence after being relieved by others.

After this general Account of the Iſland, I ſhall now come to Particulars, and obſerve, That it was formerly divided into five Termino's or Counties ; but two of them having been united into one, it is now divided into four only, the Northweſternmoſt of which is that called *Ciudadella*, from its principal City, which was formerly the Metropolis of the Iſland, as the *Spaniſh* Governor reſided, and the chief Courts were kept in it. The Length of this Termino, from South to North, is about ten Miles, and its Breadth, from Eaſt to Weſt, is from five to eight Miles, containing about 7000 Inhabitants. The City ſtands at the Head

of a little Bay or Cove, which has not Depth of Water enough for Veſſels of great Burthen, but ſmall Veſſels have ſufficient to carry them quite up to the Walls of the Town, where there is a Key for loading and unloading them. This City, which was formerly much more populous, contains ſtill about 600 Houſes, and is ſurrounded with an high Stone Wall, with Curtains and Baſtions, without which a Ditch has been begun, and cut to a conſiderable Depth in the ſolid Rock, in ſome Places, but has been quite neglected ſince we got Poſſeſſion, ſo that it may now be properly called an open City, and ſerved us only as Quarters, in Time of Peace, for one of our Regiments, who had Orders, upon the Approach of an Enemy to the Iſland, to retire to *Port-Mahon*, and if they could ſpare Time, without Danger of being purſued or intercepted, to demoliſh the Road as they marched; for Governor *Kane* had made a Road, during the Time of his Government, quite through the Iſland, from Fort *St. Philip*'s to *Ciudadella*, and had made it as paſſable as it was poſſible in ſuch a rocky mountainous Country.

The next Termino towards the South-Eaſt is *Fererias*, which runs quite croſs the Iſland

Iſland, and conſequently is in Length, from South to North, more than ten Miles, but in Breadth from Eaſt to Weſt, it is ſcarcely any where more than four; and its chief Town of the ſame Name is ſo poor a Place, that it is ſeldom viſited by any Travellers, tho' it does not lie above a Muſket-Shot to the South of Mr. *Kane*'s Road, nor is there any other remarkable Place in the Termino, ſo that it does not contain above 1126 Inhabitants. Therefore I ſhall proceed to the next Termino called *Mercadal*, to which this of *Fererias* is now united.

Mercadal Termino lies in the North-Eaſt Corner of the Iſland, and is in Length, from Eaſt to Weſt, above 12 Miles, and in Breadth, from South to North, above 10; but tho' it be the largeſt, it is far from being the moſt populous, as it is not reckoned to contain above 1700 Inhabitants. Its chief Town is *Mercadal*, which, although it lies in the Center of the Iſland, and is the common Stage, or Lodging-Place, in travelling from *Mahon* to *Ciudadella*, is nevertheleſs but a poor Place; nor is there any good Inn, or publick Place of Entertainment, in the Town, which muſt have ſome extraordinary Cauſe, as we have been ſo long in Poſſeſſion of this

Iſland. The Town ſtands near the Foot of the famous *Mount-Toro*, the higheſt Mountain in the Iſland, which riſes in the Form of a Sugar-Loaf, and has on the Top of it a Convent of *Auguſtin* Monks, who entertain you with the miraculous Deeds of a Bull, from whom, they ſay, the Mountain got its Name, and whoſe fabulous Hiſtory is painted round their Chapel, no Circumſtance of which is ever in the leaſt doubted by a good Catholick; but Proteſtants think their Labour ill beſtowed in going up to hear ſuch Legends, the Aſcent being by a winding Road, which is very narrow, and even dangerous in ſome Places, tho' when arrived at Top they meet with ſome Comfort, in the Summer Time, from the refreſhing Breezes which render the Convent extreamly delightful at that Seaſon. About ſix Miles to the North of *Mount-Toro*, lies the natural Harbour of *Fornelles*, which is a narrow Bay that runs a great Way within Land, and has Depth of Water ſufficient for large Ships, but has many Shoals and hidden Rocks, ſo that it is dangerous for any Ship to go in without a good Pilot at preſent, tho' by fixing proper Buoys it might have been made a good Harbour; and upon the Weſt Side of this Harbour there is a

ſmall

ſmall ſquare Fort faced with hewn Stone, conſiſting of four Curtains and four Baſtions, with ſomething like a Ditch or Foſſy, but without any Out-works; and as we have added none ſince we took it, as before-mentioned, tho' a Company of one of our Regiments always kept Garriſon there, it could not hold out for any Time. And laſtly, about four Miles to the North-Weſt of *Mercadal* is the remarkable Mountain called *St. Agatha*, which, in the Time of the *Maurs*, was the ſtrongeſt Fortreſs in the Iſland, and might ſtill be made almoſt impregnable, by any Method but Famine; for there is a plain Area on the Top of five or ſix Acres, which is inacceſſible every Way but by a Sort of Stairs hewn out of the Rock, and theſe might ſoon be demoliſhed upon the Approach of an Enemy; but now there is nothing upon the Top of it except a few Sheep, with a Shepherd and his Family, and a little Chapel dedicated to *St. Agatha*, who here works many miraculous Cures, for the Benefit of the Prieſts, who ſend one of their Number, from Time to Time, to celebrate Maſs in this Chapel.

To the South of the Termino of *Mercadal* lies the Termino of *Alaior*, whoſe greateſt Length

Length, from Eaſt to Weſt, is about eight Miles, and its greateſt Breadth, from South to North, about ſeven; and it is reckoned to contain about 5000 Inhabitants. The only remarkable Place in this Termino is its chief Town called *Alaior*, which lies about half a Mile to the South of Mr. *Kane*'s Road. It ſtands high and airy, is tolerably well built, and next to *Ciudadella* and *Mahon*, is by much the beſt Town in the Iſland, therefore one of our Regiments is always quartered here, except one Company, which keeps Garriſon at Fort *Fornelles*; but as it is an open Town, like all the other Towns of the Iſland, the Troops quartered here retire to *St. Philips* when the Iſland is in Danger of being invaded.

To the Eaſt of *Alaior* and *Mercadal*, that is to ſay, in the South-Eaſt Corner of the Iſland, lies the Termino of *Mahon*, which is in Length, from South to North, 14 Miles, and in Breadth, from Eaſt to Weſt, about eight, but grows much narrower at the North End. However, it is reckoned to contain above 13,000 Inhabitants, and its chief Town is *Mahon*, which is now the capital Town of the Iſland, as the Reſidence of the Governor, and the chief Courts of Juſtice, were removed

to

to this Town, on Account of the Excellency of the Harbour, and the Neighbourhood of *Fort St. Philip*'s, ſoon after we got Poſſeſſion of the Iſland.

The Town is ſituated on the South Side of the Harbour, upon an elevated Ground, ſo that the Aſcent from the Harbour is ſteep and difficult, but this renders it more pleaſant and healthful. It was formerly ſurrounded with a Wall, which is ſtill entire in moſt Places; but as the Trade of this Town has been vaſtly increaſed ſince our getting Poſſeſſion of the Iſland, many Streets have been built without and cloſe adjoining to the Wall, which do not yield in Elegance and Regularity, to any that are within the Town, ſo that it is now properly an open Town, and incapable of any Defence.

The Buildings are univerſally of Free-ſtone, and are covered with Tiles, or flat-roofed and terraced; which Terrace is the Matter of which their Floors are likewiſe made, reſembling thoſe ſo well known, of late Years in *London*, by the Name of *Venetian* Floors.

There is generally a Regiment quartered at *Mahon*. The Officers have a Houſe aſſigned to each of them, and the private Men are diſperſed in thoſe of the leſſer Burghers,

Burghers, which are converted into Barracks for their uſe. The Officers and Soldiers have a Proportion of Wood and Oil provided for them by the Town. A Subaltern's Allowance of Oil is ſufficient for one Lamp, and his Wood, with very good Management, will boil his Tea-Kettle two Mornings in a Week.

The Streets of this Town, which are generally very narrow, are none of them paved. The native Rock appears almoſt every where, and in ſome Places is very uneven and troubleſome to paſs.

At the Foot of the Hill on which *Mahon* ſtands, is a fine Wharf of great Extent in length, and proportionably broad. The whole Weſtern End is ſet apart for the Uſe of his Majeſty's Ships, and here all Kinds of naval Stores, except Maſts, which are kept on the oppoſite Side of the Harbour, are depoſited in convenient Magazines, to be in a conſtant Readineſs for careening, repairing, and ſupplying the Men of War. The Depth of Water at the Key is ſuch as enables Ships of the largeſt Size to come as near it, as they have Occaſion. As there is no Tide, a dry Dock has never been hitherto attempted at this Place, though ſurely it would not be a Work of ſuch mighty Difficulty, as it is uſually repreſented, and yet be of infinite Ser-

vice, if it could be accompliſhed: For the preſent Method of heaving down, as practiſed here, is liable to many other Objections, beſides the moſt obvious one of its being a dangerous Strain to the Maſts and Timbers of the Ships.

The Eaſtern Part of the Wharf is taken up by the Merchants, near which is the Practica-Houſe, where Ships newly come into Port, muſt apply, and ſhew a clean Bill of Health, before they are admitted to break Bulk.

A little out of Town, in the Way to *St. Philip*'s ſtands a ſmall Convent of Carmelite Friars, where lately a ſumptuous Edifice was begun by thoſe Fathers, but ſtopped by order of the Government.

About a Mile below the Town of *Mahon* is the *Engliſh* Cove, which is the general Watering-Place for the Navy. It is plentifully ſupplied with ſweet Water, and here the Harbour is near a Mile over. Half a Mile lower, and about a Mile ſhort of *St. Philip*'s, lies *Bloody-Iſland*, making almoſt an equal Diviſion of the Harbour, yet leaving the greateſt Breadth and deepeſt Water on the *Mahon* Side. Here is a capacious Hoſpital belonging to the Navy with Lodgings

for the naval Officer, Surgeon, and others, and a decent Apartment for the Admiral or Commander in Chief, on Occaſion. The cool Breezes of the Sea, to which this little Iſland lies open, render it a comfortable Reſidence in Summer: And though at preſent it contains no more than this ſingle Pile of Building, it could eaſily admit of many others, its Area containing about twelve Acres; and here the Freſhneſs of the Air, and the amuſing Proſpects of the moſt improved Spots, broke here and there with Rocks and Precipices, and intermixed with ſcattering Houſes; and the Caſtle and Town of *St. Philip*'s, the Fort of *Philipet*, and the Signal-Houſe at Cape *Mola*, at a pictureſque Diſtance, with the moving Scenes all round on the Water; theſe, I ſay, altogether, compoſe a Situation highly capable of being improved into one of the moſt delightful Retirements for a contemplative Mind, that is to be found in this Part of the World.

This Hoſpital was built, when Sir *John Jennings* was Commander in Chief of the Fleet in the *Mediterranea*, in the Year 1717, inſtead of an old one, that was inconveniently ſituated.

St.

St. Philip's Caſtle is ſituated at the Entrance of *Mahon* Harbour, to which it is the Key, and the principal Fortification on the Iſland. It is ſeated on a Neck of Land between *Mahon* Harbour and *St. Stephen*'s Cove, and its numerous Outworks, extend themſelves to the Shore on both Sides. The Body of the Place conſiſts of four Baſtions, and as many Curtains, ſurrounded with a deep Ditch, hewn out of the ſolid Rock, which furniſhed Free-Stone for the Walls. The Area is bounded on every Side with Buildings, conſiſting of the Governor's Houſe, a Chapel, Guard-Room, Barracks, *&c.* In the Center is a Pump, to ſupply the Troops with Rain-Water from a large Ciſtern, and the whole Square is well paved, and kept very clean.

Over the flat Roofs of the arched Buildings is a ſpacious Rampart, affording an extenſive Proſpect to the Eye, and the Baſtions have Guns mounted on them. The Communication from the lower Area to the Top of the Rampart is by a Pair of Stairs: The Steps are about ten Feet long, three Feet broad, and riſe one Foot. The lower Edge of the Step is of Free-ſtone, and there the riſe is only three Inches; the reſt ſlopes gent-

ly upward, and is of common Pavement. I have been the more particular in deſcribing theſe Stairs, as they are not only of eaſy Aſcent for Men, but alſo for Mules and Aſſes carrying their Burthens on their Backs. Up theſe the Artillery People likewiſe draw their Guns when there is Occaſion; and, if they did not takeup ſo much Room, they would be well worth our Imitation.

The whole Body of the Place is undermined, and very ſerviceable ſubterranean Works are contrived in the Rock, and communicate with one another, wherever it is neceſſary.

The Chapel, which is reſerved for the Service of the Church of *England*, is the leaſt adorned of any in the whole Iſland; for, as the *Spaniſh* Governors conſtantly reſided at *Ciudadella*, it received but little Improvement in their Time; and, our Governors living altogether at *Mahon*, it has been equally neglected by us.

Before the Entrance of the Caſtle is a Horn-Work, with other Out-Works to this and the reſt of the Fronts. There is a great Number of large Guns mounted towards the Entrance of the Harbour, beſides thoſe that point to the Land, which may require the Service of

a vaſt many Artillery-People on Occaſion, as indeed the various Works demand a conſiderable Garriſon, to diſpute them with an Enemy.

Of the utmoſt Advantage to this Place are certainly the capacious Galleries that are cut out of the Rock, and extend themſelves under the Covert-Way, throughout all the Works. This was an Undertaking equally neceſſary and expenſive; for otherwiſe the People muſt have been torn to Pieces by the Splinters of Stone, in Time of Action, as well thoſe off Duty, who had Cover to ſecure them, as thoſe who were obliged to expoſe themſelves. But theſe Subterraneans afford Quarters and Shelter to the Garriſon, impenetrable to Shot or Shells, and not to be come at but by cutting a Way to them through the living Rock, againſt which too they are provided with a Number of Countermines, at proper Diſtances, and in ſuch Places as by their Situation are moſt expoſed.

In the main Ditch is a ſmall Powder Magazine; another much larger is under the Covert-Way of the Place, and there are Store-Houſes ſufficient for every Occaſion, with an Hoſpital near *St. Stephen*'s Cove; and, as a Ciſtern is obnoxious to Accidents from the

the Bombs of an Enemy, there are ſeveral Wells within the Works, and a Quantity of every Species of Proviſions is conſtantly kept up, to ſupport the whole Soldiery of the Iſland, in caſe of a Siege.

On the Point of Land to the Eaſtward of the Caſtle is *Charles* Fort, built by the *Spaniards*, and of little Conſequence, as it now ſtands. The grand Battery lies down at the Water's Edge, and has a high Stone-Wall for the Protection of the Gunners, who ply their Ordnance through a long Range of Embraſures. The Queen's Redoubt is moſt advanced of all the Works, towards the Country on the Side where it ſtands; between it and the Harbour are two other Works, one of them lately finiſhed. On the other Side of *St. Stephen*'s Cove, ſtands *Marlborough* Fort, on a much higher Ground than that of *St. Philip*'s, and therefore it ought to have been fortified at any Expence, as an Enemy's getting Poſſeſſion of it would render it very unſafe for the Garriſon to appear upon the Ramparts of the latter.

The Araval, or Suburb of *St. Philip*'s, conſiſts of Officers Quarters, Barracks for Soldiers, the Church, and ſome hundreds of Houſes inhabited by the *Spaniards*. Since the

the Out-Works of the Caſtle have been run out to ſuch an Extent, the Glacis almoſt reached the Buildings in ſome Places; ſo that it was neceſſary to pull many of them down.

The great Parade is now large enough for reviewing and exerciſing two Battalions of Men, and is to be further enlarged and levelled, ſo as to receive a much larger Body. Near this is the main Guard, where a Captain, a Subaltern, two Corporals, two Drums, and thirty-two private Centinels do Duty every Day.

The Baranco is a hollow watery Place, and is the principal Garden from whence the Garriſon and Town of *St. Philip*'s are principally ſupplied. It is a flat irregular Plot of Ground, and bordered on both Sides by Rocks. It is a fertile Spot, and produces in great Abundance every Kind of Fruit, Greens, Herbs, Roots, and Pulſe, that is known to the *Minorquins*.

There is a good Key at *St. Philip*'s for the Uſe of Ships; and on the other Side of the Harbour, but a little lower down, ſtands Fort *Philipet*, where a ſmall Guard does Duty, for the Security of the Powder there lodged in a Magazine. Here is a Battery of Guns

Guns on a Level with the Surface of the Water, for defending the Entrance of the Harbour. On the elevated Top of Cape *Mola* is the Signal-Houſe, from whence the Garriſon has due warning, on the Approach of Ships and Veſſels from Sea: A Buſh hung out denotes a ſmall Veſſel, a Ball a Ship, two or three Balls the ſame Number of Ships, and a Flag a Fleet; theſe Signals are hoiſted on the Side where the Ships are diſcovered.

Cape *Mola* is high Land, and is almoſt ſevered from the Iſland by *Philipet* Cove and a ſmall Bay on the North Side, and is univerſally eſteemed capable of being rendered an almoſt impregnable Fortreſs, at a moderate Expence.

Now, as we have neglected all the Opportunities we had when we were at War with *Spain*, to free ourſelves from any Conditions we were laid under by the Treaty of *Utrecht*, with reſpect to *Minorca*, and conſequently are ſtill bound to permit the free Uſe of the *Roman Catholick* Religion, and to preſerve it in that Iſland, as far as is conſiſtent with the Civil Government and Laws of *Great-Britain*, I ſhall give your Lordſhip a ſhort Account of the People of *Minorca*, and the

the Civil Government they have eſtabliſhed amongſt them. As to the People, notwithſtanding our having ſo long had the Dominion of their Iſland, they have ſtill too much of the *Spaniard* in their Compoſition: They have ſtill all that Pride, Lazineſs, and Bigotry to the Popiſh Religion, which have hitherto entailed Poverty upon the Body of the People in *Spain*, notwithſtanding the immenſe Riches they have drawn, and do ſtill draw, from *Peru* and *Mexico*; and this, indeed, is not to be wondered at, conſidering our Management of that Iſland; for our Governors have taken Care that none of our induſtrious People ſhould ever ſettle in that Iſland; and ſo far have we been from eſtabliſhing any Proteſtant Clergy in that Iſland, that tho' every one of our Regiments has a Chaplain allowed, at the Expence of 121 *l.* 13*s.* 4*d. per Annum* to the Publick, beſides a Chaplain-General, at a plentiful Allowance, for the Garriſon, yet no Chaplain has ever, or but very rarely, appeared in that Iſland, except when a Man of War happened to put in there, who chanced to have a Chaplain on board, and their Chaplains are too often as bad Preachers as they are bad Chriſtians: We cannot therefore ſuppoſe, that the Na-

tives could learn Induſtry from our Soldiers, and this ſhameful Neglect in our Governors, with regard to publick Worſhip, could not but give them a very wrong Notion of the Proteſtant Religion, or rather could not but confirm them in their Bigotry to their own ridiculous Superſtitions.

As to the Civil Government of this Iſland, which ſtill continues the ſame it was when we got Poſſeſſion, I ſhall obſerve, that the Court of Royal Government is the principal and ſupreme Tribunal of the Iſland, in all Cauſes wherein the Crown is concerned, (except ſuch as regard the Royal Patrimony) in all Matters relating to the Jurats of the ſeveral Terminos, and in all criminal Caſes; and to this Tribunal Appeals may be made from all the inferior Courts. The Governor preſides in it, and all the Proceedings are in his Name. He is obliged to attend in Perſon at the Tryal of Criminals; but in civil Caſes, eſpecially thoſe of little Moment, his Preſence is diſpenſed with; and then his Aſſeſſor is the Judge, unleſs ſome Objection lies againſt him, in which Caſe the Governor appoints ſome other Lawyer as his Aſſeſſor in that Cauſe.

As to the Royal Patrimony or Revenue, it is regulated by an Officer called the Procurador Real, another called the Fiſcal, and the Aſſeſſor; but in all diſputed Matters, relating to it, the Laſt is the chief Judge. Then as to the inferior Tribunals, they conſiſt of the Jurats in each reſpective Termino, who are five in Number, one, who is called Jurat Major, choſen yearly by the Gentlemen or Dons of the Iſland, one by the Citizens, one by the Merchants, one by the Tradeſmen or Mechanicks, and one by the Peaſants; which is an Office that every Man who is choſen is obliged to ſerve, and each, as ſoon as he is choſen, appoints one as his Counſellor to aſſiſt him. In theſe Jurats is lodged the chief Government of each reſpective Termino, and when they think it neceſſary to call a General-Council, they apply to the Governor for his Summons, which ſeems to be a Writ of Right, and ſuch a one as he cannot refuſe; and by Virtue of this Right they aſſemble at *Ciudadella*, which Aſſembly may be called their Parliament; but they ſeem to have no Power except that of impoſing and regulating their Taxes, and repreſenting their Hardſhips or Oppreſſions to the Governor, or, if they meet with no

Redreſs from him, to the King, formerly of *Spain*, now of *Great-Britain*, by ſending over a Syndico for that Purpoſe; and this of ſending a Syndico to the King, is a Privilege that is enjoyed by each reſpective Termino, at its own particular Expence; but as the Reſolutions of their General-Council, as ſoon as it breaks up, and alſo the Reſolutions of every particular Termino, muſt be communicated to the Governor, I have heard that ſome Governors have taken Meaſures to prevent any Syndico's being able to get out of the Iſland, nay, even to prevent any Letter's being ſent from the Iſland, before being peruſed by him, which a Governor may now eaſily do for a long Time, as the Iſland has very little Foreign Trade.

There is likewiſe in each reſpective Termino a Bayle or Bailiff, who is Judge in all leſſer civil Cauſes and all ſmall Offences, that happen within the Termino; and the Bayle of *Ciudadella*, called Bayle-General, has the ſame Juriſdiction all over the Iſland. There is likewiſe a Bayle-Conſul, who is Judge in all maritime Affairs, and who, in a ſummary Way, tries all civil Cauſes of five Livres or under; and there is an Almutazen, or Officer ſo called, who has the Care of all Weights and Meaſures, and is to remove, or cauſe to be

be removed, all publick Nuiſances in the Streets or Highways. They have likewiſe ſomething like our Coroners Inqueſt ; for the Officers of the Supreme-Council are obliged to make an Inquiry into the Death of every Inhabitant ſuſpected not to be natural ; and their Method of Inquiry always gives great Diverſion to our People, for it is by whiſpering into the Ear of the Deceaſed, to aſk how he came by his Death, and other ſuch conjuring Practices of equal Efficacy now, tho' in former Times they ſerved to charge the Death upon ſome one againſt whom the Judges, or their Directors the Prieſts, had a Reſentment.

Laſtly, As to the eccleſiaſtical Courts, I muſt obſerve, that this Iſland was within the Dioceſe of the Biſhop of *Majorca*, who had a conſiderable Revenue from this Iſland, and was Patron of all the Church Benefices ; but now his Revenue belongs to our Government, and our Governor is the univerſal Patron, ſo that our King may be reckoned Head of the Church in *Minorca* more effectually than he is in *Great-Britain*. However, the eccleſiaſtical Juriſdiction is lodged in the Vicar-General, who has an Aſſeſſor for aſſiſting him ; but the Monaſteries and Nunneries are under the Direction of the Superiors of their

their reſpective Orders in foreign Parts, and therefore ought to have been long ſince diſſolved, as they are inconſiſtent with the Civil Government of *Great-Britain*, and as their Eſtates might by this Time have been a conſiderable Addition to the Royal Patrimony or Revenue of the Iſland; eſpecially as theſe Monks and Nuns ſerve for nothing but to entail Poverty upon the vulgar and ignorant, by taking every Method to conjure them out of the little Money they have to ſpare.

Having mentioned the Royal Patrimony or Revenue, I ſhall obſerve, that it conſiſts in ſeveral Taxes and Impoſitions, a very ſmall Part of which is applied towards the Support of the ſecular Clergy. All Goods imported or exported as Merchandize, pay a certain Duty, according to their Weight or Meaſure; all Salt made in the Iſland pays one Eleventh of the full Value. All Greens growing in the Iſland, including Tobacco, and even Barley for Forage, except what is raiſed by the Farmer for his own Cattle, pays one Eleventh of the full Value. Hemp pays one Thirteenth, Flax one Fifteenth, Grapes one Eleventh, Corn one Eighth and an half, and Cattle one Fifteenth of their yearly

yearly Increaſe. Beſides theſe, there is a Sort of Land-Tax, called Cencoe, and a Sort of Exciſe upon all Liquors ſold by Retail, the laſt of which, brings in the moſt conſiderable Revenue of any; and a Multitude of other little Taxes too tedious to mention, ſo that the Publick, or Royal Revenue of this little Iſland, even in its preſent unimproved State, muſt be very conſiderable, if duly collected, and regularly accounted for; but as I never heard of any Account of its being laid before Parliament, I am afraid, it is, like the Royal Revenue in *America*, moſtly ſunk or conjured into the Pockets of our great Officers, and their Deputies, Agents, or Favourites; the only Remedy againſt which would be an annual Parliamentary Inquiry, and a Parliamentary Encouragement and Protection to ſuch as ſhould diſcover any Embezzlement or Concealment; and even this would be inffectual, if our Miniſters ſhould ever be able to obtain an undue Influence in Parliament; for Miniſters too often connive at the Jobs of one another, and as they have the Appointment of, they are too apt to indulge the under Officers in their reſpective Departments, and to reſent, in ſome ſecret Manner, at leaſt, every Diſcovery that is made

made againſt them; therefore a Sovereign of true Wiſdom will take Care to preſerve the Independency of Parliament, as it is the only effectual Check he can have againſt being cheated by his own Servants.

Thus from the Deſcription alone of this Iſland, and its moſt extraordinary natural Harbour, the Importance of it muſt very evidently appear; but when we conſider the common Courſe of Navigation, and the vaſt Traffick carried on in the *Mediterranean Sea*, this Importance muſt become ſtill more manifeſt; for all Ships ſailing up the Streights of *Gibraltar*, and bound to any Part of *Africa*, Eaſt of *Algiers*, to any Part of *Italy*, or to any Part of *Turkey*, either in *Aſia* or *Europe*, and all Ships from any of thoſe Places, and bound to any Port without the Streights-Mouth, muſt and uſually do paſs between this Iſland and the Coaſt of *Africa*, and conſequently, could not eaſily eſcape the Privateers from *Port-Mahon*, if their Enemies ſhould be in Poſſeſſion of this Iſland. Then as to the Ports of *Spain* in the *Mediterranean*, all the Ships bound from any of them to *Sicily*, *Turkey*, or the Gulph of *Venice*, or from any of theſe Places, to any of thoſe Ports, do uſually paſs between

tween this Iſland and the Coaſt of *Africa*; and indeed, the Iſland is ſo near to the Coaſt of *Spain*, and ſo exactly over againſt the Middle of it, that the Navigation of the whole Coaſt muſt be very much infeſted by theShips of War of an Enemy, in Poſſeſſion of the Iſland of *Minorca*. And with Reſpect to *Marſeilles*, and the other Ports of *France* in the *Mediterranean*, their Ships cannot ſail to, or from any foreign Port in the World, without being in Danger, of being intercepted by an Enemy who is poſſeſſed of *Minorca* Even their Trade to *Genoa* and *Leghorn*, which is the leaſt expoſed, would nevertheleſs be in ſome Danger, as the Enemy's Ships, if like to be overpowered, could eaſily retire in Safety to *Port-Mahon*; but their Ships bound to *Sicily*, *Turkey*, or the Gulph of *Venice*, could ſeldom eſcape a vigilant and well provided Enemy, as they muſt take their Paſſage between *Port-Mahon* and *Sardinia*; and their Ships bound to the Eaſtern Coaſt of *Spain*, or any where without the Streights Mouth, would always be in equal Danger, as they muſt purſue the ſame Courſe, or paſs between *Minorca* and the *Spaniſh* Coaſt, which would be ſtill more dangerous, as the Paſſage is narrower.

And laſtly, with Regard to the pyratical States of *Barbary*, the Poſſeſſion of *Minorca* is of the utmoſt Importance to any Chriſtian State, that has any juſt Pretence to be called a maritime Power; for none of theſe little States could ſubſiſt, or carry on their Pyracies, without the Friendſhip, or at leaſt the Connivance of ſuch a Chriſtian State; becauſe their *Corſairs* could never appear with Safety in the *Mediterranean*, and even thoſe bound out of the Streights would be in Danger of being intercepted, either in ſailing out of Port, or upon their Return.

From hence we muſt be convinced, that whilſt we preſerve our Poſſeſſion of this Iſland, we muſt be reſpected, and even dreaded, by every Kingdom and State bordering upon the *Mediterranean*, or that has any Trade or Navigation in that Part of the World, becauſe of the infinite Prejudice we may do them in Caſe of their coming to a Rupture with us. With Reſpect to the Pyrates, both of *Barbary* and *Morocco*, this has been fully confirmed by Experience; for ever ſince we have had Poſſeſſion of this Iſland, we have enjoyed almoſt a continual Peace with every one of them: Nay, ſo much Reſpect did the *Algerines* ſhew us,

that at our Interceſſion, a good many Years ago, they readily agreed to a Peace with the *Dutch*, in which we ſhewed our Generoſity at the Expence of our Intereſt; for by the War between theſe two States we had ſolely ingroſſed the Tranſport Trade in the *Mediterranean*, but after we had procured this Peace between them, the Dutch ſoon wrigled themſelves into the greateſt Share of this beneficial Trade. How they have ſince repaid this Piece of Don *Quixote* Kindneſs, I ſhall leave your Lordſhip to judge.

By Experience likewiſe it is known what infinite Prejudice we may do our Enemies, by Means of that maritime Force which the Harbour of *Port-Mahon* enables us to keep with Eaſe and Safety in the *Mediterranean*; for in the laſt War with *Spain*, we put an abſolute End to their carrying on any Trade in the *Mediterranean*: Even their Coaſting-Veſſels and Fiſhing-Boats durſt hardly venture out of ſhoal Water, unleſs it was within Reach of the Cannon of their Forts; and in the laſt War with *France*, can it be ſuppoſed, that we could have intercepted ſo many of their *Turkey* and *Italian* Ships, eſpecially at the Beginning of the War, if we

had not then been in Poſſeſſion of the Iſland of *Minorca* ?

It is ſaid, I know, that our Poſſeſſions in the *Mediterranean* can never be of any Service unleſs when we have a ſuperior Squadron there, and this we might have even tho' we had no ſuch Poſſeſſion, becauſe we can never be at War with all the States bordering upon the *Mediterranean* ; and when our Squadron has Occaſion to go into Port, they may go into the Port of ſome of thoſe States that are in Friendſhip with us. But in the firſt Place, there are not many Ports which our large Men of War can get ſafely into ; and in the next Place, moſt States are ſhy, and no State is obliged to allow a very powerful Squadron to come into any of their Ports : I ſay a very powerful Squadron ; for in Caſe of a War with *France*, it will always be neceſſary for us to keep 30, 40, or 50 Line of Battle Ships in the *Mediterranean*, according to the Number of Ships *France* may fit out, even altho' we had no Poſſeſſion there, becauſe of the great Trade we now, and I hope always ſhall, carry on in that Sea ; therefore, if we had no Port of our own, we could not be always certain of having a ſafe Port for our Squadron to retire to, without

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going ſo far as to be quite out of the Way of protecting our Trade. But ſuppoſe we could be always certain of having a ſafe and covenient Port to retire to, could we in any ſuch Port meet with proper Stores, or a proper Conveniency for refitting our Men of War, in Caſe any of them ſhould be damaged, either by a Storm or by an Engagement with an Enemy? And if we could meet with ſuch a Thing, would it be of equal Advantage with having our Ships refitted with our own Stores, by our own People, and in one of our own Ports? Where could Mr. *Matthews*'s Squadron have been refitted after the Engagement off *Thoulon*, if we had not then been in Poſſeſſion of *Port-Mahon?*

Again, it may be ſaid that, whilſt we keep Poſſeſſion of *Gibraltar*, we cannot ſuffer much by the Loſs of *Minorca*. I ſhall moſt readily grant that *Gibraltar* is likewiſe a moſt valuable Poſſeſſion, and, I hope, it will never be given up, either with or without the Conſent of Parliament. But I cannot admit, that it is near ſo valuable as the Iſland of *Minorca* and Harbour of *Port-Mahon*. *Gibraltar* is no Harbour for Men of War, nor can a Squadron ſafely continue to ride in that Bay,

Bay, either in the Winter-Time, or when we are at War with *Spain*; and it is far from being ſo convenient a Station for our Squadron as *Port-Mahon*, either for protecting our own Trade or annoying that of the Enemy; to which I muſt add, that a Squadron at *Gibraltar* muſt always be more expenſive to the Nation than a Squadron at *Port-Mahon*: At the former our Squadron muſt have all their freſh Proviſions from Foreigners: At the latter they have all their freſh Proviſions from our own People; for even the Natives of *Minorca* I muſt look on as ſuch; and for the ſame Reaſon our Troops in *Minorca* are not ſo expenſive to the Nation as our Troops at *Gibraltar*. But what is of ſtill greater Conſequence, if we loſe *Minorca* it will ſcarcely be poſſible for us to preſerve *Gibraltar*; for a ſtrong Squadron with a ſufficient Number of Land Forces might force a Landing ſomewhere upon *Europa-Point*, which runs above a Mile out into the Sea beyond the Town on that Side, and conſequently could not be ſufficiently defended by ſuch a ſmall Garriſon as we generally have in the Town; and if an Enemy ſhould once land and lodge themſelves any where on that Point of Land, they would be able to make them-

themſelves Maſters of *Gibraltar*, long before we could ſend a Squadron from *England* to its Relief; therefore we muſt always have a ſuperior Squadron near at Hand for the Preſervation of *Gibraltar*, and where ſuch a Squadron could be ſtationed in the Winter-Time, cannot, I believe, with any Certainty be aſſigned, eſpecially if we ſhould again happen to be at War both with *France* and *Spain*, and *Portugal* perhaps ſo much overawed as to refuſe us the Uſe of her Ports for this Purpoſe; for that it could not be ſafely ſtationed in the Bay of *Gibraltar*, the Fate of Admiral *Wheeler* and his Squadron in 1693-4 muſt convince us, as that Admiral himſelf with his Ship, two other Men of War, and ſeveral more Ships, were loſt in that very Bay, not by miſtaking the Bay for the Straits Mouth, as our Hiſtorians fooliſhly ſuggeſt, for let the Weather have been never ſo thick, their Compaſs muſt have ſhewn them this Error; but the Truth is, ſuch of the Ships as had, in approaching the Straits, plyed too near the *Gibraltar* Side, were forced aſhore by the Violence of the Tempeſt, whereas thoſe that had ſteered wide, were able to weather the Storm, and to get

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ſafe into *St. Jeremy*'s Bay, on the Coaſt of *Barbary*.

But now ſuppoſing a Squadron could ſafely Winter in the Bay of *Gibraltar*, yet we could not clean or refit any of our Men of War there: By keeping a Magazine of naval Stores in that Fortreſs, they might indeed be provided with new Sails, or a freſh Supply of Ammunition, but if new Maſts or Timbers were neceſſary, we muſt carry them as well as the Ship to ſome diſtant foreign Port, before they could be fitted. Thus ſuppoſing it poſſible for us to keep *Gibraltar* after the Loſs of *Minorca*, yet the keeping of a Squadron there during the Winter, would be extremely inconvenient and expenſive; and yet during a War with any *European* State, or any of the Pyratical Towns of *Barbary* or *Morocco*, we muſt keep a Squadron in the *Mediterranean*, otherwiſe what muſt become of the Multitude of our little Ships that ſail every Year, and moſtly, in or towards the Winter, from *Britain*, *Ireland*, *Newfoundland*, *New-England*, &c. with Fiſh to *Portugal*, *Cadiz*, or the *Mediterranean*, for it would be impoſſible for them to wait for Convoy.

It is therefore evident, that if the Iſland of *Minorca* were by ſome amazing Earthquake ſwallowed up, it would be of infinite Diſadvantage to this Nation; but if it ſhould fall into the Hands of any Nation that can be called a maritime Power, eſpecially if it ſhould fall into the Hands of *France*, all the Advantages we now reap from our Poſſeſſion of it, would be then turned againſt us. I may almoſt ſay, that in ſuch a Caſe we muſt bid adieu to any Sort of Commerce in the *Mediterranean*. We know by repeated Experience, what Uſe the *French* make of any Influence they can acquire over the Barbarians in every Part of the World. Should they have the Honour of taking *Minorca* away from us, they would thereby gain ſuch a Reſpect, and ſuch an Influence over all the Pyratical States of *Barbary*, that they would ſoon prevail with every one of them to break with us. This, perhaps, we could not blame them for in a Time of War between the two Nations; but they would underhand continue the ſame Conduct in Time of Peace, ſo that we could never expect to be at Peace with any, at leaſt not with all the Pyratical States of *Barbary*, and this alone would in a few Years, transfer to the *French* not only

all our Tranſport-Trade, but all our Fiſh Trade in the *Mediterranean*, and our *Turkey* and *Italian* Trade would ſoon ſhare the ſame Fate. What an Addition this would make to the Naval Power of *France*, what a Diminution to that of *Great-Britain*, I ſhall leave your Lordſhip to conſider.

I need not, I believe, add any Thing more for convincing your Lordſhip, how careful we ought to have been to provide for the Security of *Minorca*, by ſending a ſtrong Squadron to the *Mediterranean*, before we began Hoſtilities againſt *France*. What Number of Line of Battle Ships that Squadron ought to conſiſt of, muſt always depend upon the Number of ſuch Ships, which the *French* may in a few Weeks have ready to ſail from *Toulon*; but as they may privately ſend a few Ships from their Ports in the Ocean to the *Mediterranean*, our Squadron ought to conſiſt of near double that Number; and conſidering the large Sums always allowed in our publick Accounts for ſecret Service Money, I cannot doubt of our having the moſt perfect Intelligence of the State of the *French* Naval Preparations in all their Ports, which may certainly be had, as ſuch Numbers of Men of all

Ranks, muſt always be employed in ſuch Preparations. We took Care to provide for the Defence of *Hanover* by proper Treaties and Alliances, before we began any Sort of Hoſtilities, and ſurely our own Iſland of *Minorca* equally deſerved our Care. During the whole Time of our late War with *Spain*, and even before *France* became a Party, we took Care to keep a formidable Squadron in the *Mediterranean*. This Squadron, it is true, we did not in the Year 1741, make the proper Uſe of, with Regard to the Defence of our Allies, but we made ſuch an Uſe of it as to defend our own Poſſeſſions in that Part of the World, and afterwards to ruin the Trade of *France*. Could it be ſuppoſed, that in a War with *France*, our Poſſeſſions in the *Mediterranean* would not be in ſo great Danger, as they had been, or could be in a War with *Spain*?

I was, therefore, a little ſurprized, when I heard of our taking the two *French* Men of War in *America*, that no formidable Squadron had been ſent to the *Mediterranean*; but I was quite aſtoniſhed when I heard of our ſeizing the *French* Merchant Ships in the Seas of *Europe*, without our

having previouſly ſent a Squadron of at leaſt twenty or thirty Ships of the Line of Battle, to the *Mediterranean*; and I muſt confeſs, that after our Gazettes began to mention the *French* Preparations for an Embarkation at *Toulon*, I was at laſt almoſt tempted to ſuſpect ſomething worſe than Want of Care, for I could not ſuſpect Want of Ability, as we had ſo great a Number of fine ſtout Ships in Commiſſion, and as common OEconomy muſt always direct us not to put any Ship in Commiſſion, till thoſe already commiſſioned, have been fully or near fully manned. The vulgar daſtardly Conceit of our being afraid of an Invaſion, could not, with me, obtain ſo much as a Moment's Conſideration; for there is not a Man of common Senſe in the Kingdom, who does not know, that whilſt we have ſuch a Superiority of Naval Strength, the *French*, whatever they may pretend, will never ſeriouſly think of invading us, unleſs they expected to be joined on their Landing, by a great Part of our own People, or unleſs they could by ſome very extraordinary Accident ſend at once, and from one Port, ſuch an Army as could conquer the Iſland.

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As to their expecting to be joined by any Number of our own People, in the Humour which the People now generally appear to be in, they could not expect to be joined by any one Man: Even the Papiſts ſo highly reſent the late *French* Conduct towards this Nation, and towards themſelves too, that I do not believe a Man of them would join them: I am ſure no ſuch Numbers would, as could give them any Chance for Succeſs. And as to their being able by ſome moſt extraordinary Accident to ſend ſuch an Army, as could without any Re-inforcements, make a Conqueſt of this Iſland, can any Man out of the Purlieus of *Bedlam*, imagine ſuch a Thing to be poſſible? Fifty Thouſand of the beſt Troops they have, would not be ſufficient for atchieving ſuch a Conqueſt; for let them land where they will, we could meet them with double the Number, long before they reached *London*, whilſt at the ſame Time, we might have another Army equal in Number, marching from the North, and a Third from the Weſt; for in ſuch a Caſe, all Liberties and Privileges would be at an End, our Sovereign, by our Conſtitution, would be abſolute, and our Rulers, if they had any Spirit,

rit, would oblige every Man to march, whoſe Strength and Courage they could beſt depend on.

Gentlemen who have been bred to all the Punctilios of Diſcipline, do, I know, deſpiſe, what is called the Militia of any Country: They think no Man can fight unleſs he can turn out his Toes, regulate his Steps by Meaſure, and move as ſlow as the hireling Mourners of an Undertaker at a Funeral; but a brave and deſperate Militia, led on by Gentlemen of good Senſe and true Courage, would ſoon put an End to all the Punctilios of regular Troops: They never would give them Time to fire above once; for by breaking in Pell-Mell among them, with their ſcrewed Bayonets or Broad-Swords, or even with Pitch-Forks and Hedge-Bills, they would not only prevent its being poſſible for them to charge their Muſkets a ſecond Time, but would put an End to their Regularity, and if once put into Confuſion, I could engage, that ſuch a Militia would never allow them to form again.

From hence I muſt conclude, that none of our Miniſters ever had the leaſt Apprehenſion of our being invaded, as we had in Com-

Commiſſion four Times as many Line of Battle Ships as the *French* could fit out from all their Ports in the Ocean: I ſay, our Miniſters could not have any ſuch Apprehenſion, unleſs they either diſtruſted the Honeſty, or deſpiſed the Courage of their Countrymen; and this, I ſhould be extremely ſorry ſo much as to ſuſpect; for a Nation is in a moſt dangerous and diſmal Situation, when the People begin to diſtruſt or deſpiſe their Rulers, or when the Rulers begin to diſtruſt or deſpiſe the People, becauſe in the former Caſe, Faction and Rebellion, and in the latter, Oppreſſion and Tyranny, is the certain, and often the immediate Conſequence.

I cannot therefore ſuggeſt to myſelf any one Reaſon, why we did not ſend early in the Spring, to the *Mediterranean*, a Squadron much more powerful than any the *French* could fit out at *Toulon*, as we might have done this, and yet have kept a much ſtronger Squadron at Ho e, than any the *French* could fit out from ll their Ports in the Ocean, and this without neglecting our Trade or our Poſſeſſions in any other Part of the World. For this Reaſon I endeavour to pleaſe myſelf with the Hopes of our Miniſter's having had certain Information, that the

the *French* have not provided a ſufficient Land-Force for reducing that Iſland, before our having an Opportunity to ſend a ſufficient Squadron, and a ſufficient Land-Force for its Relief; but then theſe Hopes are again daſhed, when I conſider the defenceleſs Condition in which that Iſland is at preſent, occaſioned chiefly by the wrong Meaſures we have taken for preſerving it ever ſince it was yielded to us.

We have but one tenable Fortreſs in the whole Iſland, and I doubt, if there be a Man on whoſe Service and Fidelity we can depend, beſides thoſe of the four Regiments we have in Garriſon there. I wiſh they may be compleat; for if they are not, the many Out-Works we have been at the Expence of adding to Fort *St. Philip*'s, will weaken inſtead of ſtrengthening the Place; becauſe if there are not Men enough to defend them, they will furniſh the Beſiegers with Lodgments for attacking the Body of the Fort; and if the *French* ſhould begin with making themſelves Maſters of *Marlborough* Redoubt, which I ſuſpect they will, and eaſily may, it ſtands upon ſuch high Ground, as I have been told, that it overlooks almoſt all the Works of *St. Philip*'s,

and

and will make it dangerous for our Men to appear upon the Ramparts of that Caſtle, conſequently it will very much facilitate the taking of the Place.

I am therefore under the moſt melancholy Apprehenſions that this Place, notwithſtanding the Expence we have been at, cannot hold out very long againſt a beſieging Enemy, well provided with every Thing neceſſary for the Purpoſe, as the *French* generally are; and when this ſingle Place is taken, the Poſſeſſion of the Iſland is gone from us; whereas, if we had begun to take proper Meaſures for ſecuring our Poſſeſſion, as ſoon as the Property of it was yielded to us, it might by this Time have been ſo full of Inhabitants, thoſe Inhabitants ſo much attached to this Nation, and ſo well armed and diſciplined, and ſo many Towns and Places in the Iſland compleatly fortified, that it would have required a very numerous Army, and a very long Time to have reduced it. For this Purpoſe we ſhould have reſolved to begin with taking all proper Meaſures for converting, without Compulſion, the Natives to the Proteſtant Religion; which we might have done without a Breach of any of our Engagements by the Treaty of *Utrecht*. In

Purſuance of this Reſolution a Number of young Clergymen of the Church of *England*, and of the beſt Character as to their Life and Converſation, ſhould have been preſently ſent over, and ſufficiently provided for, with Orders to make themſelves Maſters of the *Minorca* Language, and to apply themſelves towards converting as many of the Natives as they could, and with an Aſſurance of being at laſt provided for, here at Home, in Proportion to their Diligence and Succeſs. By this Method many of the Natives might have been converted before our firſt War with *Spain* in 1718; and, as all former Treaties were then cancelled by their Declaration of War againſt us, we ſhould have taken that Opportunity, at leaſt to diſſolve all the Monaſteries and Nunneries in the Iſland, and to convert their Eſtates, as the Friars and Nuns then in being died off, towards the Maintenance of a Church of *England* Clergy in the Iſland; ſo that before the laſt War with *Spain*, the far greateſt Part of the Natives might probably have been converted, and then we might, even with their Conſent, have made the Church of *England* the eſtabliſhed Religion of the Country, but with a free Indulgence to all other

other Sects of Religion, not excepting even that of the *Papiſts*.

So much with Regard to the Religion of the Iſland, and then with Regard to the Civil Government, it would have been neceſſary for ſome Time at leaſt, to have left the Natives their own Laws and their own Form of Government as well as their own Judges, but both ought by Degrees to have been brought as near to the *Engliſh* as poſſible; and both their Laws and Form of Government have ſuch a near Reſemblance to ours, which was the Reaſon I thought myſelf obliged to give ſome Account of them, that a thorough Similarity might in a ſhort Time have been eſtabliſhed. That of Trial by Jury might, I am perſuaded, have been preſently introduced, with the Conſent of the Natives themſelves; and after the *Engliſh* Language had become general among them, for the effecting of which every proper Method ſhould have been taken from the very Beginning, the Proceedings in all their Courts ought to have been directed to be in *Engliſh*. In ſhort, their Laws, their Language, and their Religion, ought as quickly as poſſible, but without any compulſive Methods, to have been made the ſame with thoſe in *England*, and every Per-

ſon born in *Minorca*, if a Proteſtant, ought to have been declared, by Act of Parliament, a natural born Subject of *Great-Britain*. If theſe Methods had been taken, together with ſuch as I am juſt going to mention, as ſoon as the Property of this Iſland was yielded to us by the Treaty of *Utrecht*, I am convinced, that by this Time almoſt every Native of *Minorca* would have been a zealous Proteſtant, and as faithful a Subject, and as ready to take Arms for the Defence of our Government, as any Soldier we have now in the Garriſon. But our Misfortune has always been to think only of poſſeſſing the Lands and the Dominion of the Country we conquer, without taking the leaſt Thought how to poſſeſs ourſelves of the Hearts of the Inhabitants, a Conduct that muſt always be attended with fatal Conſequences, of which I could give many glaring Inſtances, and it is perhaps in a great Meaſure owing to the Popularity of our Form of Government.

As the Natives of *Minorca* are generally computed to be about 28,000, they muſt have at leaſt 4000 Men able to bear Arms, which would have been no inconſiderable Addition to our Strength, if we could have depended upon their Fidelity and Courage; but

but as this Iſland lies ſo conveniently for Trade, and a Communication between the richeſt Parts of *Aſia*, *Africa*, and *Europe*, it would certainly have ſoon become a general Magazine and Mart for the Trade of all thoſe Countries, if we had at firſt eſtabliſhed the Civil Government and Laws of *England* for all *Britiſh* Subjects and Foreigners that ſhould ſettle in, or come to trade in the Iſland; and this would have increaſed the Number of Inhabitants ſo much, that by this Time, inſtead of 28,000, their Number might have amounted to 3 or 400,000. For this Purpoſe it would have been neceſſary to have eſtabliſhed a civil as well as a military Governor, and to have made the former abſolutely independent of the latter, unleſs when the Iſland was in Danger of being invaded, and martial Law proclaimed with the Conſent of a Council and Aſſembly, the former appointed by the Crown, and the latter choſen by the People, with the Approbation of the Crown, or of ſome Officer appointed by the Crown; for ſuch an Approbation would have been neceſſary, in order to keep factious and ſeditious Men out of ſuch a popular Aſſembly.

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Then with regard to Trade, the whole Iſland, with every Harbour and Creek thereof, ought to have been declared a free Port, without any Sort of Duties or Fees either upon Importation or Exportation, nor any Tax upon Goods of any Kind, until they came into the Retailer's or the Conſumer's Hands. Even then the Taxes ought to have been as moderate, and collected in as eaſy a Manner, as was poſſible, in order to have made living in the Iſland both cheap and convenient; for very moderate Taxes of this Kind, with a Land Tax of 2s. in the Pound in Time of Peace, and four in Time of War, always fully and equally, and for that Reaſon frequently, aſſeſſed, would have probably produced as much as would have paid all the regular Troops, we ſhould have been obliged to keep within the Iſland in Time of Peace, and perhaps would have ſpared a conſiderable Sum yearly for maintaining and improving the Fortifications of all thoſe Places, which could by Nature have been the moſt eaſily fortified, and which were the moſt neceſſary for enabling the Inhabitants to make a long and obſtinate Defence.

I have ſaid all thoſe Places, for ſurely we ought to have had more fortified Places in this

this important Iſland, than one ſingle Citadel ; as *St. Philip*'s can be called nothing elſe. Without having been upon the Iſland, it is impoſſible to ſay what Places moſt deſerved to have been fortified ; but ſome of the Cities, and particularly *Ciudadella* ought to have been as compleatly fortified as the Nature of the Ground would admit, becauſe if we had taken proper Meaſures we might have depended upon the Inhabitants for their Defence. The Town of *St. Philip*'s ought likewiſe to have been made a fortified City, and extended up the Harbour as far as the next Cove, from whence the Rampart ought to have run as far as the Head of *St. Stephen*'s Cove ; and as the Ground on which *Marlborough* Redoubt now ſtands is ſo high, the higheſt Part of it ought to have been included within a regular and ſtrong Fortification. For the further Security of the Harbour of *Port-Mahon*, the intended Fortification of *Cape-Mola* ought to have been finiſhed, and *Philipet* little Redoubt very much enlarged, both which might have been eaſily done at no very great Expence ; and for the Security of our naval Stores *Bloody-Iſland* ought to have been well fortified quite round, and filled with Magazines caſmated, and made as much Bomb-

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proof as poſſible. Theſe Fortifications, I ſhall grant, would have been expenſive, but if our Miniſters ever beſtowed a ſerious Thought upon Commerce, which, I fear, they ſeldom did, they would not have grudged this Expence, as it would have been fully compenſated to the Nation by the increaſed Security of our Trade; and might perhaps have been at laſt repaid by the Surplus of the Revenue ariſing from this little Iſland.

Laſtly, With Regard to the natural Produce of the Iſland, and the Improvements that might have been made therein, we ſhould have diſcouraged their producing Wheat or any other Sort of Corn, becauſe with this they might have been at all Times furniſhed from *England*, and we ſhould have encouraged their turning their Lands, as much as poſſible, to the producing of what cannot be produced here, ſuch as Wine and Fruits of ſeveral Kinds, or to the producing Hay and Forage for the Horſes and other Cattle in the Iſland. Indeed, the Improvement of Trade and Increaſe of Inhabitants would of itſelf have produced this Effect, becauſe the Landholder would have made more of his Land by theſe Sorts of Produce, than he could have made by producing Wheat or any Sort of Corn. And

by

by communicating to them a little of our Art and Skill in Agriculture, the natural Produce of the Iſland might have been vaſtly increaſed: The Sides of many of their Hills, which now produce little or nothing, might, by making Reſervoirs for Rain-Water at the Top, and the Uſe of our Water Engines, when there was Occaſion, have been made extremely fruitful; and ſome of their low tough Clay-Grounds which now produce nothing but Ruſhes, or a Sort of Herbage that no Beaſt can eat, might by Lime, Sea-Weed, or ſome ſuch Manure, and ſowing with a proper Sort of Graſs-Seed, have been made to produce as good and as ſweet Hay as any in *England*.

But there are two neceſſary Materials for our Manufactures, which it is ſurprizing we have not yet got produced in this Iſland, either by the Natives, or by ſending People thither for the Purpoſe, and that is Cotton and Silk. The planting of the Cotton-Shrub has been tried in this Iſland with Succeſs; and the *Malteſe* produce ſuch Quantities of it, that they export 15,000 Quintals of Cotton-Wool yearly; therefore it ſeems to be certain, that it might be produced in *Minorca*, and that as this Iſland is much

larger than *Malta*, we might now have had large Quantities of Cotton-Wool from thence yearly, if we had encouraged the producing of it, by allowing it to be imported Duty free, as it is from our other Colonies. And as to Silk, it ſeems probable, that Mulberry-Trees would have grown very well, if planted in *Minorca*, as great Numbers of them grow in the Countries on all Sides of it: If ſuch Trees had been found to thrive in the Iſland, it would certainly be a fine Place for breeding Silk Worms, as they ſeldom have any Froſt or Snow, and never of any Continuance; therefore the Planting of ſuch Trees ought at leaſt to have been tried, and if the Trial had ſucceeded, the People ought to have been encouraged to plant them, and afterwards provided with a Breed of Silk-Worms.

Then as to thoſe Commodities of which they do now produce and even export a little, I ſhall mention two, which are Wool and Salt. What Kind of Wool theirs is, I do not find mentioned by any of their Hiſtorians; but as their Climate, Soil, and Herbage, are the ſame with thoſe in *Spain*, it is probable, that their Wool would be as fine, if they were provided with the ſame Breed

of

of Sheep; in which Place the Exportation of it to any Place, except to *England*, ought to be ſtrictly prohibited; and let it be fine or coarſe they ought to have been encouraged to work it all up into ſome Sort of Manufacture. And with Reſpect to their Salt, as it is made in the ſame Way, I can ſee no Reaſon why it may not be made as good as any Sea-Salt we bring from beyond Sea. Whatever it is we ought long ſince to have encouraged the Importation of it, by freeing it from the foreign Duty, eſpecially as large Quantities of it might be made with very little Labour.

Thus the Iſland of *Minorca* might have been, and ſtill may be made an Iſland of the utmoſt Importance by its Produce, and the Trade that might be eſtabliſhed there, as well as it muſt always be, by its Situation, to a trading Nation and a maritime Power, therefore a Squadron ought to have been ſent thither, at leaſt Time enough to prevent a *French* Army's landing in the Iſland; for if a ſufficient Number of *French* Troops for reducing *St. Philip*'s, with all Neceſſaries for a Siege, ſhould be once landed in the Iſland, I doubt much, if the ſtrongeſt Squadron we could ſend, could beat them out, or prevent their

their making themſelves Maſters of that Fort, and conſequently of the whole Iſland. Nothing but a ſuperior Number of Land-Forces could do this, and your Lordſhip knows how expenſive this would be to the Nation; but let it be never ſo expenſive, I hope, it will be done, which is the chief Reaſon of your Lordſhip's having had this Trouble from,

My Lord,

London, April 29, 1756.

Your Lordſhip's, &c.

F I N I S.

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